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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 400, 94TH CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MEMORANDUM

STAT To:
From: Ted Ralston
Date: October 4, 1976
Subject: Briefing for SSCI staff on CIA Production of
Finished Intelligence on Soviet Union

The meetings are now scheduled for Thursday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday, October 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. SSCI staff members will be: William G. Miller, Anne Karalekas, Rick Inderfurth, Ted Ralston, Stan Taylor, Chip Pickett and Daniel Childs.

The meeting, as I envision it, should begin with firstly, an introduction on CIA's production effort on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (preferably by), followed by a substantive discussion. The introduction should cover such areas as the Soviet Union domestically and internationally (Soviet domestic and foreign policy), how the CIA is set up to produce finished intelligence on the Soviet Union (organization to serve CIA internally and the intelligence community at large), and lastly, a brief history of the U.S. intelligence community effort vis-a-vis the Soviet Union (when begun, major areas of concern, changes in focus or direction, strengths and weaknesses over the years, etc.).

The substantive areas of discussion will include the following:

1. The shape and size of the effort -
 - (a) How many people involved, how much time devoted to it, how much money expended?
 - (b) Have the major consumers of intelligence on the Soviet Union changed over the years?
 - (c) Has the effort declined in the face of growing interest in other geographic or substantive efforts? Is it adequate?
2. Soviet command and control -
 - (a) What do we know of the Soviet decisionmaking process as it relates to the following areas:
 - (1) What priorities does the Soviet leadership set?
 - (2) What factors come into play regarding succession, both to the top Party leader's post and to the Politburo, Council of Ministers, Supreme Soviet, VPK and Oblast Party leadership?
 - (3) What are the roles of the CPSU and the military in decisionmaking on defense and civilian sectors, SALT, and military policy?
 - (4) Any weaknesses or gaps in our knowledge of the Soviet decisionmaking process?
 - (5) What are the links in terms of decisions between Soviet domestic economic policy and foreign policy?
3. Strategic Questions -
 - (a) Of what factors does CIA's analysis of Soviet strategy consist?
 - (b) What changes have been made in CIA's analysis of Soviet strategy?

4. Economic Questions -

- (a) What economic questions are asked about the Soviet Union both by consumers and by analysts?
- (b) What is the nature of the econometric model used by the CIA for its Ruble and Dollar estimates of Soviet Defense spending?
- (c) Is it possible to evaluate usefully the burden placed on the Soviet economy by its defense spending?
- (d) Will the Soviet economy continue to grow under the present system?

5. The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China -

- (a) What are the chances of one of the following scenarios occurring?:
 - (1) An outbreak of armed conflict.
 - (2) A nuclear attack by either on the other.
 - (3) A reconciliation.
 - (4) A continuation of the present situation.

6. The Soviet Union and the Third World.